



Wildlife Habitat Restoration

– *BLM Recovery Act Projects* –

Dolores, San Miguel & Montrose Counties



The Recovery Act is funding wildlife habitat improvement on 1,000 acres of BLM lands managed by the Dolores Public Lands Office north of Dove Creek. The projects will enhance an ongoing Landscape Habitat Improvement Program for Gunnison sage grouse (a Colorado State Species of Concern and BLM Sensitive Species), deer, elk and desert bighorn sheep.

Sagebrush and shrubs are being mowed, and native forbs and grasses seeded on 355 acres of BLM lands on Monogram Mesa and 581 acres on the west rim of the Dolores River. In sagebrush parks, pinyon-juniper stands are being mulched to improve sage grouse habitat and increase populations of San Miguel and Dove Creek grouse. These changes will help promote hiding cover for grouse and reduce predator hunting perches.



By increasing available forage, the projects will also improve winter range habitat for big-game herds. The goal is to make changes in the distribution of elk and deer, and reduce the amount of game damage on adjacent agricultural lands.



On 69 acres of BLM lands in the Dolores River Canyon, pinyon-juniper stands and mountain shrubs on lower benches are being hand-thinned to improve the productivity of desert bighorn sheep lambing grounds. Decreasing the density of cover will allow the sheep to better see approaching predators and help decrease predation of bighorn lambs by mountain lions.

This project is funded by the Recovery Act through a participating agreement with:

- Southwest Conservation Corps